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May 13, 2021

**BY ECF**

The Honorable J. Paul Oetken  
United States District Court  
Southern District of New York  
40 Foley Square  
New York, New York 10007

Re: *United States v. Akbar et al.*, No. 20 Cr. 563 (JPO)  
Client: Kevin Lewis

Dear Judge Oetken:

I represent Kevin Lewis in this matter and write to respectfully request permission to have counsel for Devon Smith appear on my behalf at the May 20 pretrial conference. I have a potential scheduling conflict in that I am scheduled to appear before Chief Judge Swain for an in-person sentencing hearing on May 20 at 2:00 and am uncertain whether the hearing will have concluded by the time the conference before your Honor begins at 3:00.

I will join by telephone as soon as I am able to. However, in case I am unable to appear for all or part of the conference, I respectfully request permission to have Valerie Gotlib, counsel for Devon Smith, appear on my behalf.

I note that the Court has notified counsel to call the conference line with their clients conferenced in. Because Ms. Gotlib will already have her client on the phone and adding a fourth participant would be unwieldy, we also ask permission to allow Mr. Lewis to call the conference directly or through my paralegal. I have discussed this request with Mr. Lewis, and he understands it and consents to Ms. Gotlib's limited involvement.

Respectfully submitted,



Ezra Spilke

Granted.  
So ordered.  
May 14, 2021

cc: All counsel of record by ECF



J. PAUL OETKEN  
United States District Judge